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AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; AUTHORIZING NORTHERN NEW MEXICO STATE SCHOOL TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM IN TEACHER EDUCATION; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 21-4-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1909, Chapter 97, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-4-3. NORTHERN NEW MEXICO STATE SCHOOL--PURPOSE OF INSTRUCTION--ACADEMIC COURSES--BOARDING OF STUDENTS.--

A. The courses of instruction at northern New Mexico state school at El Rito shall:

(1) meet the needs of young people of New Mexico who cannot be served adequately by the local public schools in their home communities;

(2) prepare technical and trade students for occupations and vocations that are useful and necessary in the economy of New Mexico; and

(3) provide academic, technical and vocational instruction beyond the high school level and, in the event that the university of New Mexico northern branch is dissolved, may in addition provide not more than two years of accredited college level academic instruction at those areas presently served by the university of New Mexico

1 northern branch and by the northern New Mexico state school,
2 except as provided in Subsection D of this section.

3 B. The board of regents of northern New Mexico
4 state school is authorized to provide quarters for the
5 boarding of resident students.

6 C. Nothing in this section shall preclude the
7 university of New Mexico from continuing to provide upper
8 college level and graduate courses in any areas in which such
9 courses were being offered prior to January 1, 1977.

10 D. The board of regents of northern New Mexico
11 state school is authorized to develop, implement and seek
12 accreditation for a baccalaureate degree program in teacher
13 education for the Espanola campus. The program shall be
14 authorized when the board of regents certifies that the
15 baccalaureate degree program in teacher education:

16 (1) has been developed and is ready for
17 implementation; and

18 (2) is ready to receive the accreditation
19 review team from the appropriate accrediting agency. In the
20 development of the program, northern New Mexico state school
21 shall engage in a partnership with New Mexico highlands
22 university, an educational institution that is sensitive to
23 the socio-cultural conditions of the region and that is
24 prepared to offer collaborative programs to support the
25 critical higher education needs of the students in north

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central New Mexico."
